

Conway Planning Board
Thursday, May 6, 2021, 6-7:30 p.m.
MINUTES

Location: Meeting conducted remotely, per Governor Baker's directives

Present: Beth Girshman (chair), Jenn Mullins (vice-chair), Mary McClintock, Bill Moebius, Joe Strzegowski (associate member); Lara De Lucca (administrative assistant)

Other Attendees:

Camille Balestri, 2262 Main Poland Rd

John Farrell – 2262 Main Poland Rd

Gerry LeBlanc and Jiyanna Vagedes, 2332 Main Poland Rd

Tom Newman, 2394 Main Poland Rd

Devlin Selman, 2300 Main Poland Rd

Meeting called to order 6:03pm by Chair Beth Girshman

1. Review and approve minutes of previous meeting, April 15, 2021

Motion to approve minutes as submitted: Jenn, Seconded by Bill

Vote:

Girshman - Aye

McClintock - Aye

Moebius - Aye

Mullins - Aye

Motion is passed.

2. Town meeting presentations – plans/assignments

Everyone will look at the draft of the handout about proposed solar bylaw revisions and send Mary their comments.

The pre-town meeting discussion (without potluck) will be May 24, 7:00-8:30 at the Grammar School gym. The plan is for it to be recorded or to find a virtual way for folks to participate. Covid precautions will be taken. Discussion will start with a poll to determine which topics attendees want to discuss. Beth will handle the discussion. Handouts will be available. Will need to be posted as an official PB meeting if more than Mary and Beth attend.

Beth is willing to present the two solar pieces at town meeting, and Joe can present the Selectboard language change. Beth will talk to Jimmy (moderator) to make sure they will be recognized first.

The above plans will be firmed up at next PB meeting.

3. NexAmp – outstanding issues

Abutter's driveway –

Considered private driveway not common driveway. Doesn't fall under bylaw for common driveway. Unclear what our leverage is on private driveway.

Original NexAmp plan was an easement over private driveway. Agreed to clear snow in winter, unclear if upkeep of driveway was part of the agreement.

Civil engineer will look at it.

Silt fence encroached on abutter's driveway. NextAmp addressing it.

Abutter asked if we can put language in bylaw to make a company responsible for impact on private property. Not needed because the special permit process allows for site-specific concerns to be raised for a project if needed.

Slat work-

Slat work put up today on fences, waiting for feedback from abutters. Unclear if what has been put up is a sample, or all that will be done. Waiting for written proposal from NexAmp that was supposed to be submitted before anything installed or planted. Slats in general are an improvement. No planting plan. Went ahead with opaque slats, and then will address trees for screening as a second item. There are panels above fence line, the bulk are screened.

Generators and DEP -

NextAmp answer? Went to Jamie

Erosion-

Water flow down ravine and driveway can't be interrupted. Should be maintained only, to stop erosion. Joe walked along gully and couldn't find erosion. Abutter's concern that nothing has been planted or constructed to stop erosion. Joe will go look at it again after they put a flag where it is.

What is PB's role in ongoing issues with neighbors and NextAmp? PB involved in enforcing its bylaw.

New Pole-

Eversource has requested a new pole, and this is the delay and why the generator is still running. PB not the authority. It is on the agenda for the May 10th Selectboard meeting. Ross (interim Town Administrator) is following up to make sure Eversource will attend.

Tighe and Bond-

Engineering firm Tighe and Bond has been doing stormwater management reporting and oversight, and have finished their 10 contracted inspections. Their job is peer review of the work, with NexAmp fixing any problems they find. We can extend the contract if it is warranted.

We continue to need experts to manage it, it is premature to end contract. NexAmp appear to be done with construction, everything is cleaned up, but grass hasn't taken hold and generator is still going (waiting for Eversource pole hearing). PB could ask NexAmp to cost share. A cost per visit contract, get quote for price per additional visit. Leave amount of visits open.

Mary moves to extend existing contract with Tighe and Bond to continue to monitor storm water management process and report issues on NexAmp solar array project. Bill seconds.

Vote:

Girshman - Aye

McClintock - Aye

Moebius -Aye

Mullins - Aye

Motion is passed.

Joe will talk to Jean Christy about extending contract.

4. Update on Vertex Tower cell tower special permit – ConComm review

ZBA and PB issued a special permit which is contingent on ConCom signing off. Site visit is set up with ConCom, and a wetland biologist will prepare a report. They have 2 years to do this, even though it was delayed. ConCom will hold a public hearing after site visit.

5. River corridor overlay zoning – update from work group, Jenn

Workgroup hasn't met since last PB meeting.

Kimberly from FRCOG has asked for letter of support for funding to continue working on this. Asked PB to commit to bring this to Town Meeting for a bylaw change. We could have a public info session. Do we want to send a letter of support that will allow process to continue, to buy PB time to refine what to present, to be more knowledgeable, and craft it to fit what Conway wants?

Jenn moves that Beth send letter of support on behalf of Kimberly for 2 more years. Mary seconded.

Vote:

Girshman - Aye

McClintock - Aye

Moebius -Aye

Mullins - Aye

Motion is passed.

6. Pollinator project – report

Regarding state mosquito control for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Towns can opt out of the state spraying plan if they have their own plan for mosquito control in place. The deadline to do this is May 15. The Selectboard has this on their agenda for their May 10 meeting, to determine whether or not to opt out, and what they will do for mosquito control if they opt out. The question is whether or not this spraying is safe for pollinators. A point to consider is that the state doesn't indiscriminately spray over the entire state. The decision to spray is based on EEE emergence and risk. There is a color-coded EEE risk map on the mass.gov website, and Conway and surroundings towns are rated very low. The possibility of spraying happening here is low.

PB doesn't have a representative to the pollinator project so we don't have a report. Town is considering putting grant money into developing a lot left to them into a wildflower meadow. They want towns in this project to look at bylaws to see if they can add language

about pollinators, which we haven't done yet. A suggestion was made that people can write articles for Conway Currents to share their ideas for supporting pollinators with others in the town.

7. Updating floodplain bylaws – as required by state

Flood mapping presentation with updated bylaw must be done for 2022 town meeting. We'll start work on this after this year's town meeting.

FEMA only recognizes official FEMA maps, but towns can create a community river corridor to address concerns specific to the town, and make it part of the town bylaws. When updating floodplain bylaw we could create a community river corridor at same time. It would only be enforceable for town jurisdiction matters, except where it overlaps with the flood plain. Something to talk about further.

8. Planning board meetings – changing start time? When to start in person meetings?

Beth made a motion to change meeting start time to 7:00 pm beginning with the June 17 meeting, seconded by Bill.

Vote:

Girshman - Aye

McClintock - Aye

Moebius -Aye

Mullins - Aye

Motion is passed.

Beth will get town calendar changed and inform the town clerk of the change.

Discussed when in-person meetings can start. It is unknown at this time, but all town meetings are currently virtual until the state says something different. For the future, will need to determine if meetings can be hybrid and continue to have a virtual component. Members have always had the option to call in, but for a quorum, all voters needed to be together in the room. A change to this would have to be done at the state level.

Summer schedule – PB typically meets once in July and once in August. The dates for these meetings will be set at the June 17 meeting. Beth will be away June 7 – 21 but will still be at the June 17 virtual meeting.

9. Mail/email

Mail report sent by Lara, will be done once a week

10. Old business

None

11. New business (not anticipated 48 hours in advance)

None

Upcoming Meetings (first and third Thursdays):

- May 20, June 3, 6pm
- Town meeting, Saturday, June 5, 1pm

Motion to close the meeting:

Mary moved, Jenn seconded

Vote:

Girshman - Aye

McClintock - Aye

Moebius -Aye

Mullins - Aye

Motion is passed and meeting is closed at 7:25 pm.